

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 22, 2011

The Honorable Secretary Janet Napolitano
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Secretary Napolitano and Administrator Fugate:

As representatives of communities devastated by spring flooding in Minnesota, we are writing to request that you expedite the processing of Minnesota's Disaster Declaration request.

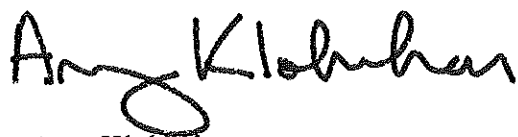
Once again, the spring thaw has brought major flooding to Minnesota's rivers. Although our state avoided the devastation of the record floods that were predicted, the flooding still caused significant and widespread damage to public infrastructure.

FEMA has been conducting preliminary damage assessments throughout the state and has already found millions of dollars in damage. The governor of Minnesota has determined that the damage is beyond the capability of our state and local governments to address on their own, and has consequently requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Given the widespread damage across our state, we write to strongly urge that you expedite the processing of the governor's request, so that President Obama can make his decision in a timely manner. Minnesota's communities are in need, and we would like to avoid any delay in receiving federal assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your assistance in helping the recovery effort across Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress